SPRING EDITION 2024

LAKESHORE LIGHT

The LEF brings *Newsies* to the Lakeshore Community Auditorium.

Get registered for the Lakeshore Golf Scramble! More information in the LEF section of the Lakeshore Light.

Grounded in TRADITION Committed to EXCELLENCE

Message from the Superintendent

Superintendent Greg Eding

The weather has been great over the past several weeks and I am hopeful that Spring is actually going to be here soon!

On May 7th, you will be at the ballot box for the renewal of our sinking fund. A sinking fund is used to pay for yearly maintenance projects, like roofs and HVAC upgrades. This fund allows us to both plan ahead for routine maintenance, and to have funds when things come up, much like a savings account for a homeowner. For example, this past winter, a pipe within our boiler loop broke at the middle school and caused us a lot of HVAC issues. The sinking fund was used to fix this issue.

To learn more about Lakeshore's Sinking Fund Renewal, visit lpslancers.net or use the QR Code.

SCAN ME

We are also on schedule to get input from our entire community in the development of a new Strategic Plan for the District. Our goal is to develop a plan that is easy to understand, has goals and action steps that can be modified on an annual basis, and that is a focus of our important work moving forward.

We want you to participate with us in the development of this plan! One extremely important step in the development of Lakeshore's Strategic Plan is to get input from all stakeholders within our community. We will be using an online tool called ThoughtExchange to gather confidential feedback within a virtual community conversation.

We are grateful for the financial support of the **LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION** and for the efforts of the LEF all-volunteer board.

Once all of the data is collected, we will carefully review and seek out patterns and opportunities for im-

Continued NEXT page.

LAKESHORE LANCERS

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

continued ...

The mission of Lakeshore Public Schools, in partnership with families and the community, is to guide students toward achieving educational excellence by engaging, inspiring and empowering them to think, learn and pursue their individual passions with knowledge, confidence, and integrity – the foundation of their future.

provement. The completed plan will be completed by the end of June and will then be communicated to the staff and public at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year.

When you have a few minutes, please use the QR code, or visit lpslancer.net and click the Strategic Plan 2024 link to engage with our ThoughtExchange survey. We need and value your feedback!

Join Us in Shaping Lakeshore's Future

Exciting developments are underway at Lakeshore, and we want you to be part of it! We are embarking on the creation of a new Strategic Plan for the district, aimed at setting clear goals and action steps for our collective journey ahead. Your input is invaluable in this process, and we're eager to hear from every member of our community. Through the ThoughtExchange online platform, we invite you to share your thoughts, concerns, and ideas to help shape Lakeshore's future. Visit lpslancer.net and click on the Strategic Plan 2024 link or use the QR code to engage in our ThoughtExchange survey. Your feedback will guide us as we chart a course for success together.

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LAKESHORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Honoring Kevin Bushu: Reflections on Leadership and Legacy at Lakeshore School Board

Kevin Bushu

The departure of Kevin Bushu from the Lakeshore School Board has left fellow trustees reflecting on the significant void his absence will create. During the board's recent monthly meeting, Trustee Scott Allan acknowledged the challenge of filling Bushu's shoes, highlighting the unique qualities and contributions he brought to the table.

Board President Rachel Wade shared her admiration for Bushu's commanding presence and genuine character. She described him as insightful, honest, and deeply committed to the Lakeshore community. Bushu, who first joined the board in 2009, announced his resignation due to his family's relocation outside the school district.

Reflecting on his tenure, Bushu expressed gratitude for the warm embrace he and his family received upon moving to Lakeshore in 2000. He emphasized the positive impact the school district had on their four sons' upbringing, affirming their deep connection to the community.

While stepping down from the school board, Bushu remains committed to serving Lakeshore, with his wife, Kelly Bushu, continuing her role on the board for the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation. He expressed his intention to stay involved in various capacities, including supporting athletics and school projects, to maintain his connection to the district.

Improving Lakeshore: School Parking Lot Enhancement Project Approved

The Lakeshore school board trustees greenlit nearly $3 million in bids on Monday to enhance the district's parking lots. Owen Ames Kimball's project manager, David Innes, outlined plans to revamp parking lots at each school and the transportation center. The bid package comprised five awards, with three granted to local firms, including Reith-Riley Construction Co. for asphalt paving, Fence Masters LLC for fencing, and Beaudoin Electrical Construction Inc. for electrical work. Additionally, bids from Kalamazoo-based companies, H&K Excavating and Earley & Associates, were selected. The bids came in below budget projections. The project is funded by a $19.9 million capital improvement bond, with additional plans for playground equipment and a millage renewal on the horizon.

BOARD OF EDUCATION Regular Meetings

The regular Board meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 5:30 P.M. in the Lakeshore High School LEF Learning Center (formerly the LGI Room near the auditorium).

*April 15, 2024
May 13, 2024
June 10, 2024

The April meeting will be held on the 3rd Monday.

In May, voters in the Lakeshore school district will have the opportunity to decide on the renewal of the district's sinking fund, which annually generates approximately $1.4 million for building repairs and maintenance. The renewal is considered a crucial aspect of the district's operations, emphasizing its role in consistent project funding and planning. The request, unanimously approved by school board trustees, will levy 1.4734 mills if passed.

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LAKESHORE HIGH SCHOOL

GROUNDED IN TRADITION
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Achievements and Acts of Kindness:

Lakeshore Key Club

United in Service: Lakeshore Key Clubbers Making a Difference Together

Lakeshore Key Clubbers traveled to Lansing for the annual Service Leadership Conference to connect with fellow Key Clubbers from across Michigan and participate in various service projects.

Our club brought home the following awards:

- 2nd Place Traditional Scrapbook
- 1st Place Digital Poster
- 1st Place Club Video
- Early Bird Dues Award - Thanks to Mia Bradley
- 2nd Place Kiwanis Family Relations Award
- 2nd Place Governor's Project
- 1st Place Major Emphasis Award
- 100% Minutes and Monthlies Award
  – *Thanks to Sam Velasco*

Empowering Communities, Inspiring Change: Lakeshore Key Club's Commitment to Service

Winter Project Summary

In addition to the conference, we continued with several service projects this winter. We hosted a *Blanket Brigade* where students made fleece-tie blankets and donated them to *The Eva Martin Project*. These blankets will be used to comfort children and families during their hospital stay. Lakeshore's kitchen staff baked 12 dozen cookies for Key Club members to decorate. Students gathered in the cafeteria after school to decorate and donate cookies for local first responders. Furthermore, we organized two charity drives for the *Humane Society* and *The Women's Shelter*. Additionally, club members have been working to brighten up the hallways by decorating bulletin boards that were not currently in use. They also brightened the school with colorful post-it notes bearing positive messages for *Random Acts of Kindness Day* in February.

Lakeshore Key Club members recently attended the annual Service Leadership Conference in Lansing, demonstrating their strong commitment to service and leadership. Winning several awards for their creativity and dedication, the club showcased their capabilities on a statewide platform. Additionally, they made a significant impact through various winter service projects, including crafting blankets for hospitalized children and spreading kindness within their school community. These endeavors highlight their steadfast dedication to making a positive difference, both locally and beyond.

LAKESHORE HIGH SCHOOL

Berrien County HOSA Members Shine at Regionals, Secure Spot in State Championships

Berrien County HOSA Champions: Empowering Healthcare Leaders of Tomorrow!

A standing ovation to CTE instructor Savannah DeVries and the Berrien County HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) members, who clinched their tickets to the Michigan State HOSA Championships after a stellar showing at the Regional! Their months of rigorous studying, researching, and job shadowing paid off, and we have no doubt they will represent Berrien County with distinction at the state level in April!

1st Place

Lydia Stathakis- Clinical Nursing Speciality
Lucia Vallejo- Emergency Medical Technician Team
Ariel Wang- Emergency Medical Technical Team
Mason Jahnke- Health Informatics
Annika DeJong- Medical Spelling
Clara Balkema- Respiratory Therapy
Jossalyn Schmaltz- Speaking Skills

2nd Place

Carly Whitelaw- Clinical Nursing Speciality
Muskan Ramwani- Pharmacy Science Skills
Paige Gerlach- Public Health Team
Preslee Perkins- Public Health Team
Sophie de la Foret- Veterinary Science

3rd Place

Randi Taylor- Health Career Photography
Bella Totzke- Medical Reading
Lillian SMith- Research Poster

Finalist

Cameron Holt- Nursing Assisting
Isabella Lovelace- Pathophysiology
Tanishka Jadhav- Pathophysiology

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Berrien County HOSA Champions Set Sights on Michigan State Championships

In addition to their stellar performance at the Regional competition, the Berrien County HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) members have their sights set on the upcoming Michigan State HOSA Championships. Scheduled for April 18-19, 2024, at the Grand Traverse Resort, this event promises to be a thrilling showcase of talent and determination. Competitors from across the state will converge to compete in various categories, aiming to be crowned the best in their respective events. It's an opportunity for these dedicated students to test their skills, knowledge, and passion for healthcare against the best of the best. With their months of rigorous preparation and hard work, there's no doubt that the Berrien County team will represent their region with distinction at this prestigious statewide event. Let's wish them the best of luck as they continue their journey towards success in healthcare!

LAKESHORE HIGH SCHOOL

LAKESHORE LANCERS

Gratitude Overflow:

Lakeshore After Prom Committee Thanks Local Sponsors for Generous Support

On behalf of the Lakeshore After Prom Committee, it's truly heartwarming to acknowledge the generous support from our local monetary sponsors and businesses that contributed donations for Lakeshore's After Prom 2024. Their commitment and generosity have played a vital role in making this event a resounding success, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for our juniors, seniors, and their guests. The support from our community and businesses not only fosters a sense of unity but also highlights the collective effort to create memorable moments for Lakeshore High School students. We extend our deepest appreciation to each sponsor and business that has contributed. Their generosity has made an impact, and we are truly grateful for their commitment to our students and the community.

Gold Level Sponsorships/Donations ($500)

Once again, a huge thank you for their dedication to the Lakeshore After Prom Committee, ensuring that our students can create lasting memories in a secure and enjoyable environment. Their support has not only made a difference for the current generation of students but has also contributed to the longstanding tradition of Lakeshore After Prom.

Silver Level Sponsorships/Donations ($250)

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LAKESHORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Empowering Educators: Adaptive Schools Training

Adaptive Schools Training at Berrien RESA.

In a continuous pursuit of professional growth and development, several dedicated staff members recently embarked on a transformative journey at Berrien RESA. Over the course of Adaptive Schools training, educators delved into innovative methodologies aimed at fostering collaboration, adaptability, and elevated learning experiences within our school community.

The Adaptive Schools program provided a structured framework for educators to explore strategies that promote effective teamwork and communication. Through interactive workshops and hands-on activities, participants gained invaluable insights into cultivating a dynamic and supportive learning environment.

Central to the training was the emphasis on building a culture of collaboration, where diverse perspectives are embraced, and collective wisdom is harnessed to drive meaningful change. Educators were equipped with tools to facilitate productive group discussions, harness the power of dialogue, and leverage collective intelligence to address complex challenges.

Moreover, the training underscored the importance of adaptability in today's ever-evolving educational landscape. Educators learned strategies to navigate ambiguity, respond to change with resilience, and proactively adapt instructional practices to meet the diverse needs of students.

As a result of their immersive learning experience, participants emerged equipped with enhanced collaborative skills and a renewed sense of purpose in their roles as educators. They are poised to leverage their newfound knowledge and skills to inspire innovation, foster collaboration, and elevate the learning experiences of all students.

Innovate, collaborate, and elevate—these principles embody our commitment to continuous improvement and excellence in education. Through initiatives like Adaptive Schools training, we remain steadfast in our dedication to empowering educators and enriching the lives of every student in our school community.

BCD's Spring Dance Concert

The Berrien County Dancers will hold their Spring Dance Concert on Thursday, May 9, and Friday, May 10, at 7:00 P.M. at LHS. Tickets go on sale May 3 and can be purchased through a dancer in the program or at the door on show nights. Our Friday, May 10 concert will be live-streamed at lps.anywhereseat.com. General admission tickets and live-stream tickets are $7.

The concert will feature works by Theresa Graziano, BCD Artistic Director, and guest choreographer Kia Smith, as well as members of the Advanced Dance class. Kia Smith, Executive Director of South Chicago Dance Theatre, was named one of the Top 25 Choreographers to watch in 2024 by Dance Magazine! We are thrilled to have her work in our concert.

Join us on May 9th and 10th to immerse yourself in an evening of captivating performances, where talented dancers showcase their skills and artistry. From graceful contemporary to energetic hip-hop, this concert promises to be a celebration of movement and expression. Don't miss this opportunity to witness the creativity and dedication of our dancers as they take the stage in a spectacular display of talent.

LAKESHORE HIGH SCHOOL

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Exploring Excellence: Highlights from MSC Winter Activities and Career Day

Class of 2007 MSC graduate Kevin Klinke presents on his pathway to becoming a software engineer.

The Math & Science Center (MSC) students have had a great winter participating in math, science, and computer science activities. The MSC is a high school program geared toward gifted and talented students who enjoy learning and challenging themselves academically.

Several former Math & Science Center graduates shared their stories during the second annual MSC Career Day. All current MSC students got to hear from the former graduates in various fields about their college and career paths. MSC alumni included Dylan Binkley (Class of 2008 and current Director of Product Marketing at Whirlpool), Kevin Klinke (Class of 2007 and current Senior Software Engineer at Microsoft), Becky Marx (Class of 2002 and current Senior Associate Registrar at Michigan State University), Eric Myers (Class of 2004 and current patent attorney for the United States Patent and Trademark Office), and Dr. Eli Sager (Class of 2008 and current family medicine physician in Stevensville). Students were able to hear each of the presenters talk about their schooling and career, while also having a chance to ask questions.

If you are an MSC graduate who would be interested in presenting at a future Career Day (either in-person or virtually), please contact Jill McNabnay at jmcnabnay@lpslancer.net.

MSC Freshmen Explore Cutting-Edge Research at Notre Dame

The MSC freshmen traveled to the University of Notre Dame to hear three professors in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering talk about their research. The professors spoke about their areas of expertise, including facial recognition algorithms (Dr. Kevin Bowyer), current applications for machine learning (Dr. Mike Neimer), and social media manipulation (Dr. Tim Weninger). After the presentations, students visited Notre Dame's Innovation Center, where Assistant Teaching Professor Ellen Dutton explained the entrepreneurial program and walked students through the steps from developing a product to taking it to market.

MSC freshmen group embarks on an enlightening journey at the University of Notre Dame, exploring cutting-edge research and innovation.

REACH HIGHER

Lakeshore Excellence Foundation

Tee up for the Lakeshore Scramble! LEFonline.org/lakeshore-scramble

Lakeshore SCRAMBLE

Are you registered?

Monday, June 10, 2024
We'll see you there!

READ MORE PAGE 2.

Online Auction THANK YOU

Record breaking results!

Your support lifted us to new heights.

READ MORE PAGE 9.

trustees

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Ryan Arnt
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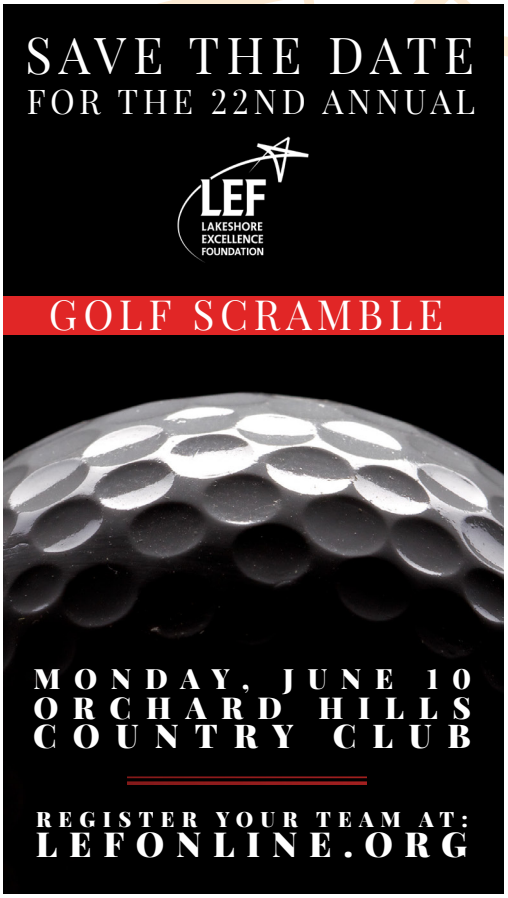
Sophie Bauchet
Ludo Beaufils
Kate Beckrow
Kelly Bushu
Zeb Deitrich
Chad Deja
Tim Dyer
Greg Eding
Andrew Glisson
Janine Harrison
Lori Hellenga
Alaina Kinney
Lori Marciniak
Sterling Massey
Kim McAllister
Elizabeth Meeth
Phil Molloy
Julia Pechtel
Jennifer Powers
Jim Roberts
Bill Scaletta
Lewis Scott
Matt Swab



Get ready to tee off at the 22nd Annual Lakeshore Scramble!

Save the date for this exciting event:

Monday, June 10, 2024
Orchard Hills Country Club, Buchanan, MI

Join us for a day of golfing excellence with a shotgun start in the thrilling scramble format, perfect for 4-person teams. But that's just the beginning! Indulge in a delicious lunch buffet, try your luck at our raffles, aim for that elusive Hole in One, and don't forget to pick up your tee gifts. Plus, there will be plenty of games and surprises throughout the day!

Best of all, your participation supports the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation, dedicated to providing essential resources to Lakeshore Public Schools. By joining us, you're enhancing learning opportunities for students, staff, and the entire community.

Registration is $250 per player, with fantastic sponsorship packages available. Many sponsorships even cover the cost of golfers, making it easier than ever to get involved. Whether you're an individual, part of a team, or a potential sponsor, there's an opportunity waiting for you at the Lakeshore Scramble.

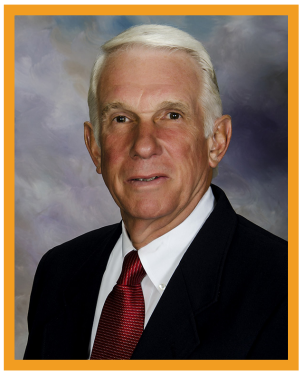
Are you registered?

Don't miss out on this chance to make a difference while enjoying a day of golfing fun!

Register today at: LEFonline.org/lakeshore-scramble

Excellent schools are the foundation of excellent communities. When you invest in Lakeshore Public Schools through the LEF, you are investing in the quality of life in our community both today and tomorrow.

THE WHY AND THE HOW
OF OUR LEF FUNDRAISING


J.C. Anderson, Chairman

I thought that I would share with you a comment that the Executive Committee received. It caused me to think through what our approaches to fundraising have been and the significant amount that each of those represents. During our meeting on February 1st, Superintendent Greg Eding said, "Everything good happening in Lakeshore Public Schools is directly related to the work of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation."

Greg went ahead to discuss several of the LEF projects and how they have, or will, result in a positive improvement for the facilities, the teachers, and/or the students. Now, if that isn't a motivational comment, I don't know what is! It certainly made me want to raise even more money to further invest in projects at Lakeshore. Greg sees the impact every day of our investments, and when he views that as the driving force of "everything good happening," then we, as the LEF Board, and you, as key investors and supporters, should feel good about the way our process is working.

Improvements in the education of the students, the effectiveness of the teachers, and the facilities are the WHY we fundraise!

Your LEF Board is made up of 27 diverse individuals who are all volunteers (i.e., no one gets a dime of the money we raise), dedicated to fundraising for the support of the Lakeshore Public Schools.

Here is a brief recap of HOW the fundraising takes place:

$150,000 =

Our Lancer Leader donors who make an annual contribution of $1,000 or more. We are always trying to increase this critical donor base of 55 individuals or businesses. Please let us know if you have an interest in supporting the school in this manner and we will have information to you promptly!

$150,000 =

This is the annual amount that we are receiving from approved grant applications from the Upton Foundation, Whirlpool Foundation, and 1st Source Bank. However, this is the last year of those 3-year grants, so we will have to apply again in 2025 and hope that the grant applications are approved for similar amounts. Obviously, this revenue is at risk as the approval process is getting tougher and tougher since more nonprofits are applying for these grant funds.

$26,700 =

The annual February Online Auction, chaired by Lori Marciniak, set records this year with a record number of items for auction, a record number of bidders, and a record revenue. Each LEF board member procures a number of items that are then put on the auction site on the Internet. We then communicate to all of our contacts, friends, the school district, etc., regarding the auction site, which is live for a week. Read more about the auction on page 9 of this newsletter.

$25,000 =

Our annual LEF Golf Scramble, chaired by Bill Scaletta, will undergo some changes this year. Our objective for any of our fundraisers (Online Auction, Golf Scramble, Cash Raffle) is to net a minimum of $20,000. We are all volunteers, so we want to make our efforts effectively pay off. In 2013, we moved the golf outing to Harbor Shores to benefit from the exclusive new course in our area and to attempt to provide a very high-quality experience for the participants. Our player fee of $250 we knew was "pricey," but we relied on the attraction of Harbor Shores, putting on a quality event, and everyone realizing that this is a fundraiser for Lakeshore students and their education. We have "sold out" the teams each year! Our $250 player fee has remained during this 10-year period and will remain at $250. However, our costs from Harbor Shores have increased by approximately 31%. To continue to have the Golf Scramble as an effective fundraiser, we felt a location move was necessary. As such, our LEF Golf Scramble will be held this year on Monday, June 10th at Orchard Hills Country Club in Buchanan. Please plan to join us again and continue your support of the LEF. We promise another high-quality, player-focused event with great golf, prizes, raffles, chicken, and steak!

$21,500 =

Our annual Cash Raffle, chaired by myself, will have a drawing for 3 prizes totaling $5,000 in September. Our Board members sell 250 tickets priced at

Continued NEXT PAGE ...

THE WHY AND THE HOW
Continued ...

$100 per ticket, generating $25,000 in gross revenue. We plan for a distribution of $5,000 in the 3 drawings, but each year the winners are very generous and have donated back a portion of their winnings.

$14,000 =

Lakeshore teachers, staff, and administration contribute to the LEF via a payroll deduction option. We are very pleased that approximately 85% of this group contributes to our *2 Cent Campaign* on an annual basis.

I hope that you are now better versed on WHY we are so focused on fundraising and HOW we go about that process. Our stated objective is to generate $500,000 each year for investment in major projects and grants at the Lakeshore Public Schools. We continue to need your help and support in any and all of the manners described in this article. I would love to discuss any other fundraising ideas that you may have. Call me at (269) 921-2513 or email me at anderjcna@gmail.com to start the conversation.

Sincerely,

J.C. Anderson
Chair, LEF

LEF Sponsors Lakeshore Teams

LANCER-BOT-MANIA

FIRST® Robotics Event

Lancer Legends

LancaBananas

Fifteen teams came from as far as Paw Paw and South Haven to compete at the Lancer-Bot-Mania First Robotics Event, held at Lakeshore High School this past December. The Lakeshore Excellence Foundation is proud to sponsor teams from Lakeshore for the annual event that gives elementary-aged children a great first look at what it takes to compete and work as a team at robotics competitions. Lakeshore was able to send three teams to the state competition in Mason, MI, on December 9th. Both of our Lakeshore teams, seen pictured, won awards for Robot Design.

Thank you to the more than 70 volunteers from the community and Team Lance-A-Bot who helped put on the event.

LEF Major Project Initiative

BODY-MIND WELLNESS

Lakeshore High School is Getting a Weight Room Upgrade

Just months from now, Lakeshore High School students will be able to take advantage of the district's brand-new weight room. This past fall, the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation approved a major project grant to fund the redesigned training environment, which includes new equipment and technology improvements totaling $175,000.

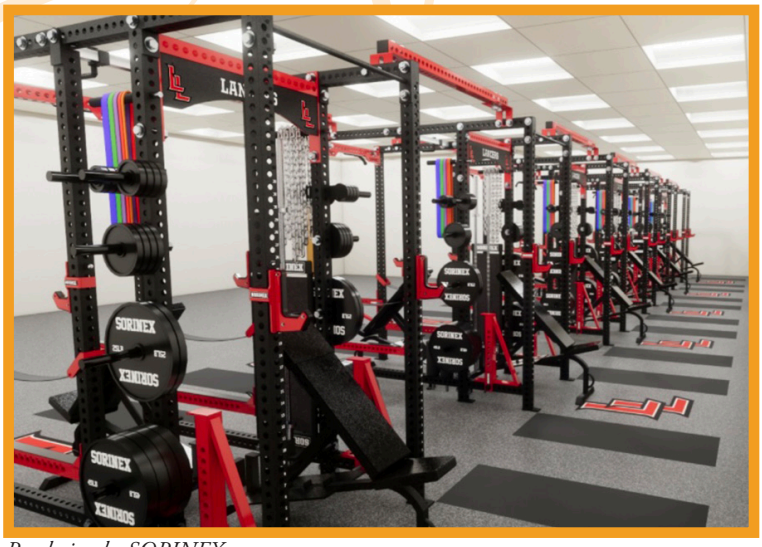
John Girton, Director of Athletic Performance & Physical Education Teacher at Lakeshore High School, explained that the upgrade will benefit students in multiple areas when it comes to physical training—not just athletes.

"I believe that anyone who is active is an athlete, not just those who play sports," said Girton. "I know the name 'Advanced Weights' seems like it caters to sports players, but realistically, it's for everyone. We don't have a football or soccer workout. It's a complete athlete training program designed to help all students get better physically and mentally. Everyone can benefit from moving well, moving strong, moving fast, and thriving! Those are the core tenets of our training."

Lakeshore High School isn't the only school in the district impacted by this LEF grant. Lakeshore Middle School will be able to take most of the equipment that is currently being used at the high school and put it to use immediately. The goal is to build a healthy lifestyle for the entire Lakeshore Lancer student base.

The inclusivity for all students to train is especially encouraging to parents when it comes to the improvement of our students' mental health. According to Girton, many studies have shown that the COVID-19 pandemic had a detrimental effect on adolescents aged 13-17 years old. "Research has shown over and over that students who participate in a resistance-based fitness program during the day have fewer mental health issues, have better attendance, do better academically, report having less overall stress, better confidence, better body image, and tend to have better long-term health compared to those that don't. The difference is staggering," said Girton.

When speaking with some of the students who currently use the weight room, the LEF gained some great insight into how they feel about the improvements. Luke Hays, a senior at Lakeshore High School and member of the 2023 Lakeshore Lancer State Championship Marching Band, stated, "Fitness wasn't always a thing I was interested in, but I slowly grew into it. Over time, I saw myself being able to be more perceptive of not just what my body needs but also what my mind needs." Luke went on to elaborate, "Playing a larger instrument, it is tough holding that weight for hours. Having less strain helps playing better and longer while in competition."



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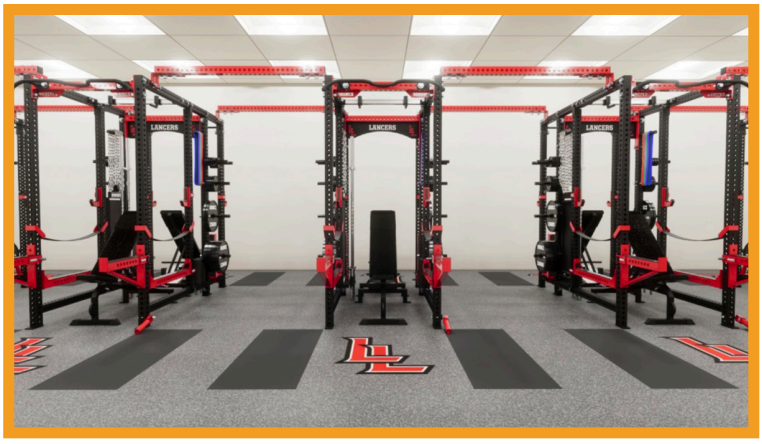

Rendering by SORINEX.

Brady Baker, a junior at Lakeshore High School and the 2023 Division 2, 106-pound State Champion wrestler, said, "The new equipment will be very beneficial in me becoming a better wrestler for multiple reasons, such as better muscle movements and more time efficiency with many people lifting at the same time." Lakeshore students and staff will be able to put the new weight room to use once complete this coming spring.

LEF Major Project Initiative

Lakeshore's Commitment to Early Literacy:

A CRUCIAL STEP TOWARDS ACADEMIC SUCCESS

In an intentional move towards fostering academic excellence, Lakeshore School District has set its sights on a district-wide commitment to Early Literacy, recognizing it as a cornerstone for the future success of its students. This initiative comes in response to a pressing concern: students who complete first grade below grade level in reading face a mere 10% chance of catching up before they graduate. Lakeshore understands the urgency of addressing this issue and aims to bridge the literacy gap by instilling a strong foundation in its young learners.

The initiative underscores the critical transition from "Learning to Read" to "Reading to Learn," emphasizing that the ability to read proficiently is not only fundamental for early education but sets the stage for lifelong learning. Lakeshore's dedication to Early Literacy positions it as a key player in ensuring that every student not only achieves but excels academically.

The genesis of this project can be traced back to Lakeshore's commitment to Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) over the past two years. Delving into PLC question #3, "How do we respond when some students do not learn the essential skills?" led the district to a resounding focus on Early Literacy.

Lakeshore teachers participating in the Early Literacy Initiative.

The acknowledgement that literacy lays the groundwork for all other academic skills became the catalyst for this district-wide endeavor.

To support this initiative, Lakeshore has partnered with the LEF to secure funding that will be strategically used to improve reading across all elementary buildings, with a particular emphasis on kindergarten through 2nd grade. This year, kindergarten through 2nd grade have begun to teach UFLI, a research-based, explicit, and systematic program that teaches students the foundational skills necessary to read proficiently. It follows a scope and sequence that is created to ensure that students systematically acquire each skill needed and learn to apply each skill with automaticity and confidence.

"Without the generous support of the LEF, we would not be equipped to provide teachers with the necessary resources and training. We are grateful to the foundation for laying the groundwork for our earliest learners," said Natalie Macerata, Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

In conclusion, Lakeshore's commitment to Early Literacy is not merely an initiative; it's a proactive stance towards empowering students with the essential skills they need for a lifetime of learning. By addressing the roots of literacy challenges early on, Lakeshore is sowing the seeds of success, with a vision of a future where every student reads not just to learn but to excel.

Lakeshore School District's commitment to Early Literacy is a proactive effort aimed at empowering students with essential skills for lifelong success. By addressing literacy challenges early on, Lakeshore is laying the foundation for a future where every student excels academically.

Lakeshore's Mentor Program:
FOSTERING GROWTH & FULFILLMENT

Amy Fleming, Alley Brown, and Leah Reusser

Jake Bushu and David Castonguay

Lakeshore Public Schools launched a transformative mentor/mentee program aimed at fostering personal growth and fulfillment for both mentor and mentee teachers, thanks to the generous donation from the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation. This innovative initiative provides guidance and support for new teachers to Lakeshore, creating a nurturing environment where these teachers can flourish professionally and personally.

By prioritizing mentorship and individualized attention, Lakeshore Public Schools is cultivating a culture of empowerment and mutual support, ensuring that every participant has the opportunity to thrive and succeed. Currently, there are 22 mentor/mentee partnerships participating in this program.

One of these partnerships includes Roosevelt first-grade teacher Amy Fleming, who is mentoring recently hired Alley Brown. Brown completed her internship this past fall at Stewart Elementary in Leah Reusser's second-grade classroom. Reusser shared, "Alley did a fantastic job in my room. She grew and learned so much during her internship with me and will continue to grow as a teacher with Amy as her mentor."

With the support of the LEF, participants in this program have opportunities to attend conferences together. Mentor third-grade teacher David Castonguay and mentee Jake Bushu will be attending the annual MACUL (Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning) conference in March. David said, "The mentor program gives new staff time and resources to grow professionally with their mentor. Jake has shown remarkable leadership in his first year of teaching by making connections with his students and reaching out to me and other staff members when he has questions. We are looking forward to attending MACUL to enhance our use of technology in the classroom. Thank you, LEF!"

Lakeshore Public Schools' mentor/mentee program, backed by the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation, nurtures educators' growth and success. With 22 partnerships and impactful stories like Amy Fleming and Alley Brown's, supported teachers thrive. The program also offers professional development opportunities, such as David Castonguay and Jake Bushu's attendance at the MACUL conference. Thanks to LEF, Lakeshore educators are empowered to excel.

LANCER LUNCHES PROGRAM

The Lancer Lunches program has been up and running for almost a year now after the LEF Board of Trustees voted to extend funding for another school year. This crucial program currently serves 115 Lakeshore elementary students. Any family suffering from food insecurity can notify the elementary school where their student attends to receive help.

Volunteers from Stevensville United Methodist Church have been the driving force behind this incredible initiative. They gather every Thursday afternoon to pack the food bags so students have nutritious food for the weekend. The Lakeshore Rotary has also joined in to help pack food once a month.

We are thankful for the dedication of these volunteers as they serve students in our district. Here are some of their thoughts about the program and why they choose to participate:

"Being able to be a part of the Lancer Lunch program is a blessing to me, but more importantly, I sincerely hope that it helps address the need that is present for students who would otherwise be food challenged on weekends," says volunteer Sandy Hayes. "The school personnel have been great to work with, and their flexibility is greatly appreciated."

With the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation's support, the Lancer Lunches program provides vital sustenance to 115 elementary students facing food insecurity. Volunteers from Stevensville United Methodist Church and the Lakeshore Rotary are fostering a sense of community care and empowerment among Lakeshore's children.

"I am very thankful for the support of LEF," says volunteer Kellie Meyer. "Our church is excited to be working on the Lancer Lunch program. Together we are working as a community to help our students receive food assistance and to let them know that the community cares about them."

"We feel very fortunate to be part of the Lancer Lunches," say volunteers Bruce and Leanne Nitz. "We hope this program makes a little difference to the families it benefits, and that they feel the love and support of our community. And we are so thankful to live in a community where one of our most valuable resources is recognized as our children. Thanks, LEF!"

"The Lancer Lunch program was established to help elementary students with food insecurity, but it does more than that," says volunteer Sarah Melcher. "It touches the lives of the volunteers who support the program. Thank you to LEF for your support of this great program."

"I am so very blessed to be a part of the Lancer Lunch program," says volunteer and LEF Trustee Lori Hellenga. "It provides food for our kids so they can be healthier and more successful in all that they do. It provides fellowship for the volunteers who love being a part of this community effort. And it could not have happened without the support of Feeding America, JA Foods, Stevensville United Methodist Church, and of course our own LEF!"

Volunteers pack weekend lunches for students in the Lancer Lunches program.

THANK YOU

We appreciate all of the individual donors, and area businesses, who helped make the 2024 LEF Online Auction such a huge success! Your support makes a world of difference for the students, staff and community of Lakeshore Public Schools.

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LEF Programs

Empowering Tomorrow:

Teaching Functional Life Skills and Students with Special Needs

Life as a person with a disability is hard. A disability can make certain activities, like schoolwork, tasks at home, or even making friends, more difficult. For years, students with disabilities have received support from Special Education teachers to meet their needs. Most students can find success with a little extra help with things like math, reading, or speech. However, some students, especially those with cognitive impairments, can struggle throughout their day. This can be heartbreaking for the student and their family.

Thankfully, in Lakeshore, things are different. There are specialty classrooms where those students who typically struggle the most are thriving. Students in these classrooms, called Functional Life Skills classrooms, benefit from intensive support, like the name implies, learning skills for life. Functional Life Skills math includes learning about time and money. Functional reading includes reading for information on labels and signage at a grocery store. These skills, which we all take for granted, are explicitly taught by professionals trained specifically to work with students who require this support.

The ultimate goal of this program is for the students to graduate and be contributing members of the community. Along each student's path toward this goal, they make stops at Hollywood Elementary, Stewart Elementary, Lakeshore Middle School, and Lakeshore High School. Each of these classrooms is a school family where students show resilience, courage, and unwavering spirit.

Ricky Rhodes teaching Lakeshore Middle School students.

A student's journey through the Functional Life Skills program often starts at Hollywood Elementary in a classroom for Kindergarten-2nd grade students. This classroom, often referred to as "Sprouts," is led by teacher Katie Dewey. "Before students come to this program, they are in a challenging setting…then, once they settle in, you can feel a weight lifted off their shoulders. The kids feel successful, they are willing to try new things and take risks, and they are themselves." Students in Katie's classroom enjoy time with their friends without disabilities during the school day but are supported by Katie and her team when learning early reading skills, social skills, and communication.

Students who are in 3rd-5th grade attend the classroom at Stewart Elementary, led by Emily Bilka, who loves to brag about her students. "They are funny, happy, creative, accepting, honest, courageous, inspiring, and determined little humans. This program gives them a space to be accepted as they are, to find success every day and allows them to grow…at a pace that works for them."

The third stop on a student's educational journey is Lakeshore Middle School,

Continued NEXT PAGE

At Lakeshore, the Functional Life Skills program empowers students with disabilities to thrive academically and prepare for independent living. Through specialized support and dedicated teachers, students learn essential life skills.

EMPOWERING TOMORROW…

for the 6th-8th grade classroom, led by Ricky Rhodes. Since students are entering adolescence, Ricky and his staff are teaching more independence than ever before.

Beginning in 9th grade, students attend Lakeshore High School with teacher Jason Hines and his team, but they also learn outside of the high school walls. Jason Hines's high school classroom can often be found at Martin's, honing their budgeting and purchasing skills by grocery shopping. You might also find students in Mr. Hines's room at Walgreens stocking shelves. Students have many other opportunities for work-based learning and community-based instruction so that one day, they can be gainfully employed and independently navigate the community.

When asked how this program will help when he graduates, one high school Functional Life Skills student said he enjoyed, "learning how to buy an apartment…[how to get] a job, and learning how to cook. My favorite thing we cooked was pasta!"

The triumphs our students have in these classrooms show that in Lakeshore, we don't let a student's disability determine their path. Teachers meet students where they are and give them the tools to be successful, no matter their level of need. Lakeshore is blessed to have this program to serve not just our community, but also the surrounding communities; the Functional Life Skills program serves students throughout the county who have these needs. The impact of this program is clear: children can learn if they're taught in a way that meets their needs, and our community is all the better for it.

LEF Grant in Action

Newsies - A Musical Production

Newsies at Lakeshore Community Auditorium

Students who took part in Lakeshore High School's March musical, "Newsies," received a special treat when Broadway star Adam Kaplan took the stage with them for a theater workshop. Kaplan, who starred onstage in the Broadway version of "Newsies," took time answering questions before getting to work preparing the students for their performance.

Kaplan's visit was paid for through a grant from the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation. Lakeshore English teacher and "Newsies" program director, Christy Sloan, submitted the grant request to the LEF. She was excited to see the students benefit from this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"We are so grateful to the LEF for this opportunity," said Sloan. "His [Kaplan's] visit was astonishing. I have teacher friends all over the country, and when I try to explain what the LEF contributes to our classrooms and the school, I think they can hardly believe it. We are so lucky."

To read more about Mr. Kaplan's theater workshop at Lakeshore High School, visit: https://bit.ly/LEFMusicalGrant.

Excellent schools are the foundation of excellent communities. When you invest in Lakeshore Public Schools through the LEF, you are investing in the quality of life in our community both today and tomorrow.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

The Lakeshore Excellence Foundation (LEF) Board takes great pride in its diverse team of 27 dedicated members. Each individual brings unique skills, experiences, and a shared passion for enhancing education within the Lakeshore community. Their collective commitment to excellence drives them to continuously seek innovative ways to support students, educators, and the community at large. As proud stewards of the foundation's mission, they tirelessly strive to make a positive difference in the lives of Lakeshore students, ensuring a brighter future for all.

Tim Dyer, Trustee

Tim Dyer

Tim is the area's Commercial Lending Group Manager for United Federal Credit Union. A native of West Michigan, Tim earned his degree from Hope College. Since relocating to the area in 2015, Tim has been committed to community engagement, actively contributing to various boards and committees. Notably, he has served on the Cornerstone Alliance Board, the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Authority Board, and the Cornerstone Young Professionals Executive Committee. He and his wife, Larisa, and their family have settled in the Stevensville area and look forward to increased involvement in the Lakeshore community as their children begin their educational journeys. Tim's commitment to community service and understanding of the importance of education make him both honored and excited to serve the LEF.

Alaina Kinney, Trustee

Alaina Kinney

Alaina grew up near Kalamazoo, MI. She earned a BA in Secondary Education from Michigan State University and an MA in Educational Leadership K-12 Administration from Western Michigan University. Alaina was fortunate enough to be hired at Lakeshore right out of college in 2006 and has been here ever since. She has taught a variety of courses in the English Department as well as spent a brief time teaching US and World History. At Lakeshore, Alaina has been a volleyball coach and class advisor, and is currently the advisor for the National Honor Society and Prism. She also serves on the Building Leadership Team and is the Association Representative for the Lakeshore Educational Association. During the school year of 2013-2014, Alaina was selected for the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program and spent the year teaching English to 6-12 grade students in Békés, Hungary. Alaina has a small farm with goats, horses, chickens, dogs, and a barn cat that keeps her busy outside of school. She also enjoys reading, gardening, and traveling. She is excited and honored to be a part of the LEF as she has seen firsthand the enormous positive impact it has on the students of Lakeshore Public Schools.

REACH HIGHER

Lakeshore Excellence Foundation

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Learn more about LEF.

Visit our website: LEFonline.org
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LAKESHORE HIGH SCHOOL

MSC Sophomores Dive into Medical Training at Michigan State University

The MSC sophomores traveled to *Michigan State University's School of Osteopathic Medicine*, where they worked with first and second-year medical students to learn osteopathic medical manipulation techniques. Students also gained hands-on experience in suturing and learned clinical skills such as taking blood pressure, using a stethoscope, and testing reflexes. Following lunch at a campus dining hall, former MSC graduates and current MSU sophomores Caroline Beckrow and Jayden Schmaltz led students on a tour of MSU's campus and answered questions about college life.

MSC sophomores show off their suturing skills.

Outdoor Learning Adventures:

MSC Sophomores Explore Michiana Service Camp

The MSC sophomores took a little break from the classroom to visit *Michiana Service Camp*. The philosophy of "work hard" (in the classroom) then "play hard" (with fun activities) was the focus. It was a great way to build relationships and learn about science outdoors. Students covalently bonded at the bonfire, "sharing" stories and witnessing excited electrons change color in the fire.

MSC sophomores take a break from playing games on their winter retreat to eat some breakfast.

Exploring Engineering: MSC Juniors' Excursion to Western Michigan University

The MSC juniors visited the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Western Michigan University. The students competed in a design challenge with the industrial engineering department and took a tour of the facilities. The activities were run by WMU juniors and seniors who are in the engineering program. Students ended the afternoon with a Q&A session, where they asked questions about academics, various college opportunities, and college life both on and off campus.

MSC juniors learning about WMU's solar car.

LAKESHORE HIGH SCHOOL

Celebrating Excellence:

John Girton Receives Program of Excellence Distinction

John Girton, Director of Strength and Conditioning and Physical Education Teacher

Lakeshore High School is proud to announce that John Girton, Director of Strength and Conditioning and Physical Education Teacher, has been awarded the Program of Excellence distinction by the National High School Strength Coaches Association (NHSSCA) for the 2024-2027 period. This prestigious accolade recognizes John's exceptional leadership and dedication to maintaining high standards in Strength & Conditioning programs.

John's unwavering commitment to professionalism and excellence has been instrumental in earning this distinction for Lakeshore High School. Through his leadership, our school has demonstrated outstanding achievements in safety, quality, efficacy, outreach, and innovation, setting a benchmark for excellence in the field.

Furthermore, John's continuous pursuit of knowledge and his adept use of technology have played a significant role in elevating Lakeshore's Strength & Conditioning initiatives. His dedication to ongoing education ensures that our program remains at the forefront of best practices, providing students with the highest level of training and support.

GROUNDED IN TRADITION COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

Resounding Success:

Lakeshore Bands Achieve Superior Ratings at District Festival

The Lakeshore Bands hit all the right notes at the District VI Michigan School Band & Orchestra Festival, held at St. Joseph High School on Thursday, February 29th. Each of Lakeshore's bands - the 7th grade, 8th grade, High School Concert, and High School Symphonic Bands - delivered stellar performances, earning Division I ratings across the board.

Receiving Division I ratings signifies the highest level of performance excellence, commonly referred to as "Superior." This remarkable achievement is a testament to the dedication, talent, and hard work of the students and their directors.

The Lakeshore Bands have once again demonstrated their musical prowess and commitment to excellence, setting a standard of quality that reflects the dedication of all involved. Congratulations to the Lakeshore Bands for their superior sounds and outstanding performance at the District Festival!

LAKESHORE HIGH SCHOOL

Victory in Unity: FIRST® Winners Stand Tall, Champions of Innovation!

First Place Banner

The Lakeshore Robotics team, Team Lance-A-Bot 4237, made school history by taking 1st place at the Berrien Springs Robotics Competition!

After competing in FIRST® for 13 years, Team Lance-A-Bot 4237 earned their first Blue Banner and secured first placeat the Berrien Springs Robotics Competition. At the end of the qualification matches, they were ranked 3rd out of 34 teams with a record of 9 wins and 3 losses. This meant the team ended up as the captain for Alliance #2. For their Alliance selection, they chose Team 302, The Dragons (ranked 6th), and Team 201, The FEDS (ranked 27th). They pushed through the double-elimination matches and made it to the Finals! The team was up against Alliance #1, made up of Team 7769, The CREW, Team 2075, Enigma Robotics, and Team 6538, Linc-Bots. It was a very impressive alliance, and while both of the alliances were evenly matched on paper, in the end, Team Lance-A-Bot and Alliance #2 pulled through to first place! Along with winning the district event award, Team Lance-A-Bot also won the Team Spirit Award for our motivating force in the stands during the matches! Our second competition of the season will take place at St. Joe on March 8th and 9th.

For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST®) is an international youth organization that operates the FIRST® Robotics competition. The season kickoff on January 6th revealed the competition theme of Crescendo by Haas. The objective is for teams to design a robot to pick up notes (rings) from the ground and shoot them into the speaker or the amp.

Additionally, before time runs out, robots must navigate to the stage to park or hang on a chain. They can create harmony if two robots hang on the same chain. A human player can also throw a note onto the microphone for more points.

Team Lance-A-Bot comprises 38 members who have been hard at work since October, specifically teaching new members to program, use CAD for design, and understand the elements of building and electrical work. Many students join the robotics team to gain a better understanding of STEM-related areas.

For additional details about the team or becoming a team sponsor, please visit: lakeshorerobotics.com.

GROUNDED IN TRADITION
COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

LAKESHORE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Celebrating Academic Excellence: Recognizing Dedication and Achievement

At Lakeshore Middle School, academic excellence is celebrated and rewarded. The dedication and hard work of students across all grade levels have been recognized, highlighting their commitment to learning and achievement.

8th Grade Results:

Highest Honors: 45 students achieved a GPA between 3.80 and 4.0.
Honors: 52 students earned a GPA ranging from 3.5 to 3.79.

7th Grade Results:

Highest Honors: 76 students achieved a GPA between 3.80 and 4.0.
Honors: 93 students earned a GPA ranging from 3.5 to 3.79.

6th Grade Results:

Highest Honors: 111 students achieved a GPA between 3.80 and 4.0.
Honors: 126 students earned a GPA ranging from 3.5 to 3.79.

Overall, the academic achievements of our students serve as a testament to the importance of studying and dedication in achieving success.

Congratulations to all the students who have been recognized for their outstanding achievements!

Celebrating Achievement:

Lakeshore 8th Grade Band Student Selected for MSBOA All-State Middle School Band

Congratulations to the Lakeshore 8th Grade Band student, Shreya Ganu, who was accepted to perform in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's All-State Middle School Band on Saturday, January 27th, 2024, at the DeVos Performing Arts Center as part of the Michigan Music Conference.

The reward for her hard work was the opportunity to rehearse and perform exciting band repertoire under the baton of Dr. Andrew Boysen, Jr., an internationally renowned composer and conductor who currently serves as professor of music at the University of New Hampshire. They performed at the DeVos Performing Arts Center in Grand Rapids as part of the Michigan Music Conference.

Thriving in a rigorous and highly competitive environment, with over 2,800 auditioners across the state, Shreya demonstrated exemplary dedication. This event required students to independently prepare challenging etudes and scales for their auditions. Additionally, she showcased her skills by sightreading a piece of music she had never seen before, with only one minute to study it.

We are extremely proud of your exemplary work ethic and attitude, Shreya!

Excellence in Music: Celebrating Achievement

Congratulations to Lakeshore's 8th Grade Band standout, Shreya Ganu, for earning a spot in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's All-State Middle School Band! Shreya's dedication shone as she performed at the Michigan Music Conference. Her exceptional talent and work ethic set her apart in a highly competitive field of over 2,800 auditioners. We applaud Shreya's outstanding achievement!

LAKESHORE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Lakeshore Middle School Spellers Excel at Regional Bee

In a display of remarkable talent, Lakeshore Middle School held its annual spelling bee on January 9, with nine students vying for victory. The competition, lasting an unprecedented 44 rounds, surpassed previous records set in 2021.

Securing the top spots were seventh-graders Luke Britten and Laney Stempien, along with eighth-grader Falisha Haque. After a fierce 33-round showdown, Laney emerged as the runner-up, while Falisha claimed victory by skillfully navigating through a challenging array of words.

Commendations are due to all participants for their dedication and exemplary performances. Representing LMS, Falisha, Laney, and Luke carried their skills forward to the regional bee in February.

At the Cloverleaf Spelling Bee held on February 22, forty-five spellers from 15 schools across the region convened at Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center. Among them were Lakeshore Middle School's finest spellers—Falisha Haque, Laney Stempien, and Luke Britten. Notably, both top spellers from LMS were 7th graders. Congratulations to Laney for finishing in 12th place and Luke for finishing in 7th place.

Top spellers from Lakeshore Middle School celebrate their success at the Cloverleaf Spelling Bee.

LMS Choir Students Shine at MSVMA State Honors Choirs

Congratulations to LMS choir students Kiean Arend and Caroline Howenstine for their exceptional performances in this year's MSVMA State Honors Choirs.

Students excel at MSVMA State Honors Choirs.

The MSVMA Middle School Honors Choirs feature talented students from across Michigan who audition early in the school year. These students undergo a highly competitive and rigorous rehearsal schedule to compete for spots in one of three choirs. Selected students first perform in a regional concert, with the top performers chosen to sing at the prestigious Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids.

Kiean, a 7th-grade student, sang in the TTB Choir under the direction of Jeffrey Cobb, while Caroline, an 8th-grade student, sang in the SSA Choir under the direction of Samara Valla.

Thousands of auditions were submitted, making Kiean and Caroline's achievement even more commendable. We are incredibly proud of their passion, work ethic, and attitude, and grateful for their representation of Lakeshore Middle School throughout the entire process.

LAKESHORE LANCERS

Roosevelt Elementary Shines Bright at 'A Night of Stars'

Roosevelt Elementary School dazzled audiences with its spectacular "A Night of Stars" variety show, held on Friday, March 1st. Directed by the talented Lori Kuntz, the show featured a lineup of remarkable performances. Adding to the excitement, fifth-grade hosts adorned in blue commemorated Roosevelt's prestigious "Blue Ribbon School" status. One of the highlights of the evening was the uproarious staff video titled "The Staff Meeting," which received thunderous applause from the audience. It was truly a night to remember, filled with laughter, talent, and community spirit.

A Heartfelt Exchange

Christy Erickson's second-grade class at Roosevelt Elementary sparked a heartwarming Valentine's Day initiative by reaching out to people across the United States to exchange cards. What began as a simple idea blossomed into a meaningful exchange of love and kindness, as the students eagerly awaited cards from various states. Their mailbox overflowed with over 300 pieces of mail, including packages from as far as Australia, each containing unique tokens and heartfelt messages. Notably, they received cards from all 50 states and several countries worldwide.

LAKESHORE ELEMENTARY

Launching Lakeshore Intervention Time (LIT) at Stewart Elementary

Lakeshore Intervention Time (LIT) was rolled out on February 13 at Stewart Elementary. Stewart is the early adopter of the model, which will be put into place in all Lakeshore Elementary Schools by next year. Early in the school year, teachers, administrators, and paraeducators began working to learn the new Acadience Online Assessment System. The data the system provided was studied, sorted, and used, along with other determining factors, to make grouping decisions. Instructional routines were then designed, and professional development was provided as needed.

The purpose of LIT is to provide every student with targeted, explicit English Language Arts instruction based on need. All students at each grade level participate at the same 30-minute time slot, four days a week, so that no child misses CORE instruction. (Kindergarten LIT is held five days a week.) The skills focused on vary by group and grade level but may include phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing. Programs used include, but are not limited to, UFLI, Phonics for Reading, and Six Minute Solutions. Students are challenged appropriately in each LIT group. Their progress is closely monitored, and instruction and pacing are adjusted accordingly.

The staff at Stewart is excited about this model program and looks forward to sharing their learnings with the staff of the other two elementary schools. With LIT, everyone WINS!

Lakeshore Intervention Time (LIT): Tailored ELA instruction for every student, ensuring progress and success across all grade levels.

LAKESHORE ELEMENTARY

Fifth-Graders Leap into Fun:

Hunting for Leap Day Frogs at Hollywood

A student's excitement shines as she discovers a Leap Day Frog during our school-wide hunt at Hollywood Elementary

Thursday, February 29th, was an exciting day at Hollywood Elementary School!

Our fifth-grade students had a blast searching for Leap Day Frogs hidden all over their classrooms and around the school. They were so thrilled to find these little froggy friends! It was a lot of fun, and they worked together to find them all. This activity made Leap Day even more special and memorable for our students at Hollywood Elementary School.

Lakeshore Art Teacher Wins United Way Prize

Join us in extending hearty congratulations to Nancy Anderson, the esteemed art teacher at Roosevelt Elementary!

Nancy Anderson proudly displays her $200.00 gift card from Honor Credit Union, a reward for her exceptional contributions to Lakeshore Public Schools through the United Way School Campaign.

Nancy has clinched victory as the recipient of a $200.00 gift card from Honor Credit Union, courtesy of the United Way of Southwest Michigan's Annual School Campaign.

Lakeshore Public Schools has reason to celebrate as well, securing its place in the Top 5 School Campaigns for United Way. This achievement has paved the way for one of our exceptional employees to receive this well-deserved recognition.

Nancy's dedication to her craft and contributions to our school community have not gone unnoticed. Her artistic talents and commitment to education exemplify the spirit of Lakeshore Public Schools. Let's give Nancy a round of applause for this outstanding achievement!

Stewart Elementary Welcomes New Principal Carole Fetke

In December, Stewart Elementary School announced the appointment of Carole Fetke as its interim principal. With a wealth of experience as a retired principal from Watervliet Public Schools, Fetke brings a strong foundation in educational leadership to her new role.

Carole Fetke
Stewart Principal

Fetke's career in education has been marked by her dedication to supporting teachers and addressing the diverse needs of students. Her extensive background spans various educational levels, from lower elementary to central office administration. Fetke holds degrees from Central Michigan University and Western Michigan University, where she completed her undergraduate and graduate studies, respectively.

Outside of her professional endeavors, Fetke cherishes time spent with her family, including her four children and seven grandchildren. She approaches her role at Stewart Elementary with enthusiasm and a commitment to fostering a positive learning environment for both students and staff. The school community looks forward to benefiting from Fetke's expertise and leadership as they embark on this new chapter together.

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